

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 03194 221437Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /086 W
-----221542Z 039587 /45

R 220151Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0019
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3194

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, OAU, RH, NI
SUBJECT: GARBA'S VIEWS ON PATRIOTIC FRONT AND ZIMBABWE
LIBERATION GROUPS

REF: (A) LAGOS 3146; (B) LAGOS 2829

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA MARCH 17,
CHARGE REPORTED THAT REV. SITHOLE HAD CALLED ON HIM MARCH 11
AND HAD EXPRESSED OPTIMISM RE HIS EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE STATES
FROM ENDORSING THE EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION GIVEN THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT (PF) BY THE FRONT LINE STATES. GARBA SHARED THAT
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OPTIMISM AND SAID THAT AT THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING
IN LOME FEBRUARY 22 - 26 HE HAD SPOKEN OUT STRONGLY IN
SUPPORT OF SITHOLE'S POSITION AND HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL
IN GETTING THE ISSUE OF PF RECOGNITION POSTPONED TO THE
JULY OAU SUMMIT IN GABON.

2. GARBA SAID HE HAD MADE CLEAR AT LOME AS HE HAD TO

KAUNDA AND NYERERE EARLIER THAT THE PF SHOULD NOT BE AN EXCLUSIVE NKOMO/MUGABE CLUB; ANY LEGITIMATE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO JOIN. GARBA SAID MUGABE HAD MADE A CRUDE AND VERY BAD IMPRESSION AT LOME WHEN HE SAID FLATLY THAT ANYONE COULD JOIN THE PF AS AN INDIVIDUAL, BUT THAT OTHER LIBERATION GROUPS COULD NOT JOIN THE FRONT. GARBA SAID HE TOLD MUGABE THIS POSITION WAS UNACCEPTABLE.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, GARBA CONCEDED THAT NKOMO AND MUGABE ARE "FACTS OF LIFE" AND SEEMED TO HAVE MILITARY FORCES OF A SORT THAT "MAY BE USEFUL" FOR THE "SO-CALLED LIBERATION STRUGGLE." HE SAID HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO IS RATHER SKEPTICAL AS TO THE COMMITMENT OF THE PF -- WHETHER IT IS GENUINELY DEDICATED TO PHYSICAL STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION OR WHETHER IT IS MERELY JOCKEYING FOR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. GARBA SAID OBASANJO HAD PUT THIS QUESTION POINT BLANK TO NKOMO AND TOLD HIM NIGERIA WOULD NOT SUPPORT HIM BLINDLY BUT ONLY IF HE SHOWED HE WOULD USE THE ASSISTANCE IN THE WAY IT WAS INTENDED.

4. GARBA ASSERTED THAT SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA DO NOT HAVE ANY MILITARY FORCES AT ALL; THEY SAY THEY DO, BUT THIS IS NOT TRUE.

5. IN CONCLUSION, GARBA SAID THE NIGERIAN POSITION IS VERY FLEXIBLE; FMG WILL RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT ANY GROUP THAT IS A GENUINE FORCE FOR ZIMBABWE LIBERATION. FMG WANTS THEM ALL TO GET TOGETHER UNDER THE PF UMBRELLA, AND IT WOULD PREFER TO CHANNEL SUPPORT TO THEM THROUGH THE OAU.
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6. COMMENT. MUCH OF THIS IS NOT NEW, BUT IT IS NEVERTHELESS REPORTED FOR SOME OF THE REFLECTIONS OF ATTITUDE THAT IT OFFERS.
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Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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